

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 843

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0645K

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MI

SUBJECT: FUNSANI DETENTION

REF: A. KABUL 2933 (NOTAL) B. LILONGWE 0428

1. SOME ADDITIONAL FACTS IN FUNSANI CASE HAVE RECENTLY COME TO LIGHT WHICH REINFORCE CASE THAT FUNSANI'S INVOLVEMENT WITH REPORTED COMMUNIST PROFESSOR SIMONS ("ENEMY OF MALAWI" IN EYES OF POLICE) DUE STRICTLY TO HIS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AS USIS LIBRARIAN. I INTEND SEEK EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THIS FACT TO POLICE COMMISSIONER KAMWANA STRESSING THAT FUNSANI DETENTION HAS HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON INTEREST AND THAT GIVEN WHAT I CONSIDER AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT FUNSANI'S CONTACT WITH SIMONS JOB-RELATED, I WOULD HOPE FOR SPEEDY RELEASE BEFORE OR ON KAMUZU DAY (MAY 14) WHEN SELECTED PRISONERS TRADITIONALLY RELEASED. WE KNOW THWT POLICE COMMISSIONER PREPARES LISTS FOR PRESIDENT WHO USUALLY ACCEPTS RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. ON APRIL 22 RECENTLY-RELEASED JAILMATE OF FUNSANI CALLED BN DCM AND PAO TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF CASE AS TOLD HIM BS FUNSANI (MEMO POUCHED AF/E AND USIA/IAA). THIS INFORMATION ESTABLISHED 1) SIMONS WAS PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN MALAWI IN APRIL-MAY 1976 AND HAD VISITED USIS OFFICE; 2) SIMONS HAD REQUESTED AND BEEN PROVIDED SOME BOOKS ON AMERICAN LAW, BASING HIS REQUEST ON FACT THESE BOOKS WERE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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AVAILABLE IN ZAMBIA (FYI: THESE BOOKS WOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY GOM CENSORSHIP); 3) FUNSANI NEVER ACTUALLY RECEIVED LETTER FROM SIMONS THAT POLICE CONFRONTED HIM WITH, INDICATING THAT IT WAS INTERCEPTED AND RETAINED BY POLICE. SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED THAT FUNSANI HOPED TO LEAVE FOR PH.D STUDIES AT STANFORD IN SEPT. 1977, BUT HAD NOT INFORMED GOM SECURITY OF THIS.

3. REF A (REPEATED SECSTATE, INFO USIA) AND USIS FILES CONFIRM THAT FUNSANI'S DUES AS MEMBER OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI PAID BY USIS AND THAT HE ATTENDED BRANCH CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES IN MANGOCHI, MALAWI IN APRIL 1976 WITH USIS CONCURRENCE. IT WAS THERE HE MET PROFESSOR SIMONS WHO AT THAT TIME WAS APPARENTLY ACCEPTABLE TO GOM AS LATTER HAD PERMITTED HIS ENTRY FROM ZAMBIA.

4. IN MY VIEW, FACT THAT SIMONS FOLLOWEDUP WITH LETTER TO FUNSANI, WHICH FUNSANI NEVER RECEIVED, THANKING HIM FOR MAKING AVAILABLE CERTAIN MATERIAL ON AMERICAN LAW AND REQUESTING INFORMATION ON WENELA, WHICH GOM CONSIDERS SENSITIVE, IN NO REPEAT NO WAY SUGGESTS SUBVERSIVE LINKS FUNSANI TO SIMONS - FUNSANI HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF LETTER BEFORE BEING CONFRONTED WITH IT BY POLICE. I INTEND STRESS THE ABOVE POINTS IN MEETING WITH KAMWANA IN ORDER PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN FUNSANI AND SIMONS. ACCORDING TO MY CONVERSATION OF MARCH 18 WITH KAMWANA, FUNSANI'S LINK TO "ENEMY OF MALAWI" (READ SIMONS) IS ONLY REASON FOR HIS DENTENTION. WHILE LACK OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FUNSANI AND SIMONS WOULD APPEAR TO US OBVIOUS AND THEREFORE HIS DETENTION AS GROUNDLESS, I REALIZE HYPERSUSPICIOUS MALAWI POLICE, CONDITIONED BY BANDA'S ALL-PERVASIVE CONCERN FOR SECURITY AND A COMMUNIST THREAT, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY SEE THINGS IN THIS LIGHT. BUT I BELIEVE FURTHER APPROACH TO POLICE COMMISSIONER CERTAINLY WORTHWHILE AT THIS STAGE, PARTICULARLY WITH KAMUZU DAY APPROACHING.

5. ADDITIONAL CHARGE POLICE MAY HAVE ON FUNSANI IS ALLEGED INTENTION TO "FLEE" COUNTRY MENTIONED BY POLICE COMMISSIONER TO DAO - IT MAY BE THAT POLICE HAD DISCOVERED SOME PAPERS RELEVANT TO FUNSANI'S CONFIDENTIAL

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PLAN TO STUDY IN THE STATES STARTING IN SEPT. 1977 (PARA 2 ABOVE). IF SUCH CHARGE SHOULD COME UP, I INTEND TO ANSWER IT BY STATING I AM AWARE OF HIS INTENTION TO PURSUE ADVANCED STUDIES WHICH WOULD NCESSITATE, IN ANY CASE, GOM CLEARANCE TO LEAVE COUNTRY AND THAT USIS ENCOURAGES EMPLOYEES TO PURSUE EDUCATION GOALS.

6. I SHALL REPORT TO DEPARTMENT AND USIA RESULTS OF KAMWANA MEETING WHICH AM NOW TRYING TO SCHEDULE.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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